

Appln. No. 10/766,732
Amdt. dated: November 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated Aug. 23, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] With the increase in popularity of laptop computers, there has arisen a corresponding need for suitable carrying cases to protect such devices in transit. A wide variety of such carrying cases are available. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,160,001 to Marceau discloses a computer carrying case that includes a pair of laterally spaced straps for suspending a laptop computer from a central dividing wall within the case. Similarly, International Publication number WO 93/24028 to Hollingsworth discloses a laptop computer carrying case that includes an elastic sling suspension system to help protect a laptop computer from shocks and impacts when the case is placed on the floor. Yet another laptop computer carrying case is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,887,777 to Myles et al. The Myles et al. reference includes a carrying strap which is capable of being secured in a first arrangement for carrying the bag in a substantially vertical orientation and in a second ~~derangement~~ arrangement for carrying the bag in a substantially horizontal arrangement such that the computer can be operated through the opening in the front wall while being carried in the substantially horizontal orientation.

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] Fig. 6 is perspective view of the laptop computer carrying case in Fig. 5 with a front panel of the case shown cut away along line ~~[[5-5]]~~ 6-6 to more completely illustrate the manner in which the laptop computer can be secured therein.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the laptop computer carrying case in Fig. ~~[[7]]~~ 5 with the cover flap in a closed position.

Please insert paragraph [0015.1] between paragraphs [0015] and [0016]:

[0015.1] Fig. 8 is a cross-sectional view of the laptop computer carrying case in Fig. 2, taken along line 8-8.

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] Referring now to Fig. 2 and Fig. 8, a ~~[[A]]~~ second portion 127, 129 of each strap 126, 128 can advantageously be comprised of a resilient pad material. For example, the resilient pad material 801 can be a formed of foam rubber, neoprene and so on. The resilient

{00007483;3}

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pad material 801 can advantageously be provided on a length of the straps sufficient to cover at least the gap 702 between the side panels 106, 108 and the cover flap 112. In this way, the portion of any oversized laptop computer 500 disposed in the carrying case that is left exposed by the gap 702, can be protected against mechanical impact and shocks. The resilient pad material 801 can be disposed within a protective outer fabric layer to protect the pad material from abrasion and to create a more consistent appearance with the exterior of the case. The protective outer fabric layer can be leather, synthetic leather product, nylon web or any other fabric. According to one embodiment, the straps 126, 128 can have a double wall construction, similar to that used for the panels as shown in Figs. 4 and 6.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] The second portion of the strap including the resilient pad material 801 can advantageously be formed to have a width that is at least approximately as wide as the space between the front panel 102 and the rear panel 104. In this way any portion of an oversized laptop computer stored in the laptop computer carrying case 100 that is ~~exposed~~ exposed by gap 702 can be protected from mechanical impacts and other adverse environmental conditions.

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